

Permitted Facilities: A small number of vehicular and pedestrian dune crossings necessary for access to areas located behind the dunes.

Recreational Activities: All recreational activity prohibited within the dune district because of the exceptionally fragile nature of the dune system.

C. Resources Management

Fire Island National Seashore will be managed to preserve its nationally significant natural resources while providing environmentally compatible recreational opportunities. Attempts will be made to repair human disturbances of the natural geomorphic conditions at certain locations, with the idea of then allowing natural processes to maintain these conditions. The island's resources management strategies will be integrated into a larger management strategy for the south shore of Long Island, with the needs of Great South Bay communities and economic interests taken into consideration. Specific resources management proposals are discussed under the following sections.

1. Beaches, Dunes, and Inlets

Immediately install sand-bypass systems at Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets so that sand presently being trapped in these inlets will be returned to the littoral drift. (The sand bypass will entail a dredging operation within the inlets. Sand that is being trapped in the inlets will be removed and placed in a "feeder beach" downdrift from the inlets. The surf will ultimately distribute the sand along the downdrift beaches of Fire Island.)

Do not open new artificial inlets within the national seashore boundaries. (When new inlets open naturally, they will be evaluated for effects on the ecosystem, and they will be closed if adverse effects outweigh benefits.)

Evaluate recent proposals by the Corps of Engineers to initiate sand nourishment programs along the beaches of the national seashore. (If beach and dune nourishment appears economically and environmentally feasible, work will be limited to beach areas west of Watch Hill. Major federal tracts will not be included in the sand nourishment program. Sand nourishment projects within the national seashore boundary will not be undertaken until the sand-bypass systems are operational at the inlets. Corps of Engineers' sand nourishment programs will be under the close supervision of the National Park Service.)

Class IV--Special-Use Zones

IV A--Community Development Zone (750 acres). This zone includes private lands within the 17 communities located within the boundary of the national seashore. Federal control within the communities is limited by existing legislation to certain zoning standards. Otherwise, the communities are exempted from direct federal control.

Uses: Private development (single-family residential and some commercial) that conforms with local jurisdictional zoning ordinances approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

Recreational Activities: Activities typical of seashore communities, ranging from surf-fishing and beachcombing to nightclub dining and dancing.

IV B--Major Park Development Zone (93 acres). Lands within this zone are limited to major large-scale facilities, public bathhouses, and parking lots located within Smith Point County Park, Suffolk County.

Uses: High-intensity beach recreation.

Existing Facilities: Large-capacity facilities, such as extensive parking lots, major bathhouses, drive-in campgrounds, boardwalks, trails, concessioner facilities, and related support facilities.

Recreational Activities: Swimming, picnicking, surf-fishing, playground activities, shellfishing, and other recreational activities permitted in zones I and III.

IV C--Dune District (163 acres). The dune system of Fire Island National Seashore, which is subject to frequent and severe storm damage, is vital to the protection and perpetuation of the resource. Certain segments of the dune system within the seashore have been severely damaged by man's activities. All dunes not included in the environmental protection/primitive zone will be protected from additional damage by inclusion in this district.

Uses: Public recreational use prohibited.

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Rehabilitate and protect ocean-facing dunes by repairing certain dune blowouts and revegetating with native species as needed.

Prohibit the installation of additional groins, bulkheads, revetments, and other artificial stabilization devices. (Groin fields proposed by the Corps of Engineers east of Fire Island would have an adverse impact on Fire Island beaches and are therefore opposed by the National Park Service. Snow fences and other acceptable stabilization methods will be permitted within the seashore boundary in areas where dune reconstruction has been undertaken or significant erosion is occurring.)

Establish a dune district to prevent additional construction within an area subject to frequent and severe storm damage. (For sources which provide information on the need for dune preservation and control, see bibliographical entries which are marked with an asterisk (*).

By 1980, undertake a wilderness review of the high dune management unit to determine if the area will qualify for wilderness.

2. Dune Crossings and Unpaved Sand Trails

Limit vehicular dune crossings to those essential for access and management (see figure 26). Closed dune crossings will be restored by filling. Some will be revegetated.

Limit vehicular travel on unpaved sand trails to that necessary for essential access and management.

Restrict public pedestrian dune crossings to elevated boardwalks.

3. Tidal Marshes

Do not establish additional mosquito ditches or maintain existing ditches until their impacts can be determined. (Research on ditched and unditched tidal marshes will be undertaken.)

Terminate the use of insecticides, herbicides, and other chemical control agents on all National Park Service lands unless a health emergency warrants the use of such chemicals.

Conduct tidal marsh research on the use of chemical and ditching techniques as means of mosquito control.

Study the small experimental tidal marsh near Barrett Beach to evaluate the ecological desirability of using the material that results from dredging (mostly sand) to construct tidal marshes.

4. Artificial Islands

Establish a cooperative research and management agreement with the town of Brookhaven for the maintenance and protection of the valuable habitats that exist on the town-owned artificial islands at Moriches Inlet.

Develop a cooperative program with the Corps of Engineers to determine the location, size, and shape of any future artificial islands that are created as the result of dredging activities in Great South Bay.

5. Water Quality

Assist New York State in monitoring water quality on Fire Island and adjacent waters.

Assist the state in enforcing closure of contaminated shellfish beds in areas adjacent to marinas under federal jurisdiction.

Encourage exempted communities to upgrade their sewage facilities and to establish boat sewage pumping stations.

Upgrade the existing septic-tank system at Old Inlet to meet or exceed EPA standards.

Establish methods and/or facilities for tertiary treatment levels for sewage at five visitor-use areas (Fire Island Lighthouse, Sunken Forest, Talisman, Watch Hill, and Smith Point West).

Develop adequate pumping facilities at all federally operated marinas to handle boat sewage.

Oppose all oceanic outfalls of sewage effluents and encourage disposal of treated wastewater to Long Island aquifers.

Continue to comment on actions of other governmental agencies outside the authorized boundaries that may impact lands and waters within the national seashore.

Establish a houseboat-type floating research facility with self-contained water and sewage systems, laboratory space, and limited overnight accommodations to support research activities at Fire

Island. (Research will be conducted on various water quality problems, shellfish and finfish problems, tidal marsh experiments, and others.)

6. Vegetation and Wildlife

Restrict hiking within the high dune management unit to the beach and designated trails behind the dunes.

Close hunting and fishing areas within the seashore on a seasonal or permanent basis whenever these activities are determined to be detrimental to flora or fauna. (This determination will be made cooperatively by the National Park Service and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.)

Prohibit the introduction of nonnative animals and exotic plants or the proliferation (where feasible) of existing exotic plants on Park Service lands.

Complete inventories of existing floral and faunal populations on Fire Island and conduct additional research on natural resources to acquire data for management. ✓

7. National Registry of Natural Landmarks

Cooperate with landowners in preparing forms to nominate resources that have been identified as meeting the criteria for natural landmark status to the National Registry of Natural Landmarks.

8. Restoration of Impacted Areas

Remove accumulated waste materials from federally owned bay-to-ocean strips on the western end of the island.

9. Vehicle-Use Regulations

Restrict use of recreational vehicles to the area of beach from Long Cove east to Smith Point West. (No more 30 vehicles will be permitted on this segment of the island at any given time.)

Regulate more strictly the use of necessary nonrecreational vehicles through a permit system.

Use year-round vehicle checkpoints at Fire Island Lighthouse and Smith Point West to monitor vehicle use and enforce vehicle regulations.

Conduct a study of the impacts of vehicles on Fire Island and their compatibility with other uses and resources to provide data for future management decisions.

Prepare an environmental assessment to provide more detailed information on changes in vehicle use regulations and impacts of these changes. This document will be prepared by the North Atlantic Regional Office.

10. Cultural Resources

Conduct archaeological studies of the William Floyd Estate.

A resource study is needed to identify, summarize, and evaluate cultural resources that are no longer extant; knowledge of these resources will be useful in interpreting the history of Fire Island. A comprehensive base map should show locations of all lifesaving stations built before and after 1872, when the U.S. Life Saving Service was established, as well as the locations of the most important shipwrecks within the seashore.

Prior to any disturbance of the ground surface at the Floyd Estate, subsurface testing of archaeologically sensitive areas would be required to provide information about possible buried remains. Projects that would require excavation are not proposed by this plan.

Prior to development of the Patchogue and Heckscher ferry terminal sites, these sites will be evaluated by Park Service staff to determine if historical and archaeological surveys are needed.

Cooperate with the New York State historic preservation officer in assessing significant historic properties within the seashore boundary and prepare necessary materials for qualified properties to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Conduct more detailed historical surveys of the William Floyd Estate and the Fire Island Lighthouse.

Stabilize and rehabilitate lighthouse to prevent further deterioration.

Initiate curatorial services for the care and protection of furnishings and artifacts at the William Floyd Estate.

D. Development and Use

The National Park Service proposes to maintain facilities for those types of public recreation that are